

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01890 080009Z

14-S

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8895

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED, EFIN, MARR, BF

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PAUL L.
ADDERLEY

1. THE MINISTER STARTED THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING IF I HAD SEEN A NEW YORK POST ARTICLE OF A WEEK OR TWO AGO ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR. I SAID I HAD NOT. HE SAID THAT THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE APPOINTMENT, I.E., THE FACT THAT IT WAS MADE BY AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS OF LIMITED DURATION. ADDERLEY SAID THAT THE POST HAD NOT GOTTEN THAT INFORMATION FROM ANYONE IN THE GOVERNMENT SO FAR AS HE KNEW, NEVERTHELESS, HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT THE ARTICLE WAS CORRECT.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, IRS MATTERS AROSE AND I TOOK THE OCCASION TO MENTION THAT WASHINGTON WAS PREPARING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY COVER THE PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH ALL U.S. INVESTIGATORY AGENCIES WOULD OPERATE IN THE BAHAMAS. MINISTER ADDERLEY SAID THAT "FRANKLY, SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING ACCEPTED BY US." THE BURDEN OF HIS SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE IRS PROBLEM STILL RANKLED (HE REFERRED TO THE 60 MINUTE PROGRAM AS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE), BUT ALSO REFERRED IN A GENERAL AND VAGUE WAY TO THE TREATMENT IN THE U.S. OF THE BAHAMAS AS GENERALLY LACKING IN A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON INVESTIGATION MATTERS. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT WE SHOULD FIND WAYS TO PUBLICIZE THE FACT THAT THE GCOB HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE WHEN APPROACHED THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS

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AND THAT HE WOULD WANT TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND WITH REGARD TO

THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE WOULD IN DUE COURSE SUBMIT TO HIM SINCE SIGNING SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD, IN FACT, GENERATE PRECISELY THE PUBLICITY FAVORABLE TO THE BAHAMAS WHICH HE SOUGHT.

(COMMENT: ADDERLEY IS CONVINCED THAT WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS "CERTAIN OFFICIALS IN THE USG UNDOUBTEDLY SPEAKING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION" LEAK ITEMS WHICH PLACE THE BAHAMAS IN A BAD LIGHT. THERE HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN STATEMENTS MADE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER LEFT UNMADE, BUT THE IMPORTANT POINT FOR WASHINGTON TO NOTE IS THAT ANY FUTURE COMMENTS WILL BE VERY CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED IN NASSAU AND THE SENSITIVITIES ARE SUCH THAT EVEN INNOCUOUS COMMENTS ARE GIVEN AN ADVERSE INTERPRETATION. THE MORAL IS: NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WHICH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES, OR, EVEN IF NOT EXPLICITLY ATTRIBUTED, WHICH APPEAR TO COME FROM USG SOURCES.)

3. I MENTIONED THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE SOME CONFUSION AS TO THE GCOB POSITION WITH REGARD TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HAVE PRICE WATERHOUSE TURN OVER DOCUMENTS TO THE SEC IN CONNECTION WITH ICD INVESTIGATION. ADDERLEY'S GENERAL LINE WAS THAT ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPOSE ITSELF SO AS NOT TO COOPERATE WAS INCORRECT. I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD GIVE THAT TO ME IN WRITING EXPLICITLY REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO OBJECTION TO PRICE WATERHOUSE TURNING OVER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO THE SEC. HE PROMISED TO DO SO.

4. I REFERRED TO OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE BOUNDARY ISSUE, REMINDING ADDERLEY THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO LET US KNOW PRIOR TO ANY FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISION SO THAT WE COULD DISCUSS ANY POTENTIAL ISSUES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION SAYING THAT A DECISION HAD NOT AS YET BEEN MADE, BUT THAT HE WAS SHOOTING FOR SOMETIME BETWEEN JANUARY 15 BUT NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1. (THE TIMING WAS ASSOCIATED IN HIS MIND WITH THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY RECESS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND OF CABINET MEETINGS.) HE STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT SEE WHY THERE SHOULD BE ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS IN IDENTIFYING MEDIAN LINES. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT WAS PROBABLY CORRECT. (COMMENT: I DID NOT GO INTO THE DISCUSSION CONTAINED IN STATE 291156 IN ANY DETAIL. IF ADDERLEY IS OF THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS, THEN WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO

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DISABUSE HIM OF THAT UNLESS IT SUBSEQUENTLY PROVES UNAVOIDABLE. MOREOVER, HIS TARGET DATES FOR COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS, WHILE WORTH NOTING, ARE ALSO UNLIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE. FINALLY, IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO THE ARCHIPELAGO.)

5. I COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT WE HAD NOT RECEIVED HIS PROMISED LETTER ON THE FACILITIES NEGOTIATION. HE POINTED

TO A LARGE STACK OF PAPERS ON HIS DESK SAYING THAT THE MATTER
WAS SOMEWHERE IN THE PILE AND HE HOPED TO GET TO IT SOON.
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